

This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor creases and discoloration, characteristic of old paper. The right edge of the page is bound, showing dark stitching or thread. There is no text or other markings on the page.

A PRIMA DONNA'S TALENTS

A Detective's Experience.

I shall never forget, said Mr. F., a circumstance that occurred here the winter of 185-. It was illustrative of an almost immeasurable degree of peculiar element in a woman's character—jealousy.

One night Mr. I.—and myself—were seated in the office, solacing ourselves after a hard day's work, with cigars and an occasional sip of brandy, when a woman entered, and announced a wish to see me. She was dressed modestly behind him, and the announcement was hardly made when she sat before us.

A lady, evidently. There was nothing of the bonythly carriage, the dumpy, dirt-luping manners, a dark, dark veil obscured her features, and I knew intuitively that the woman was beautiful. There was that indefinable

"You know me, then?" She stared visibly as she spoke, and I detected tremor in her voice.

"That is not surprising, usdam, I have so often heard your voice."

"A lie," she said. "I have betrayed me, I need your services, and I am thus compelled to disclose my name and my name is Madam Ise."

Your excellent memory, sir, has made me the necessary."

I bowed in acquiescence, and she proceeded to tell me that she had afternoon received intelligence, we deemed reliable, that a plot had formed against the life of the Emperor personally; perhaps to take her life.

They were both prime donne in opera. Our visitor, a lady of remarkable beauty, and whose voice, the sweetest most musical I had ever heard, poured a compass and tone that made her acknowledged favorite of our people. This had excited the animosity of a rival, who, in the person of Mrs. H—, had enjoyed the distinction of favorite, now being rapidly withdrawn. She was a daring, vindictive woman, who for this indulged an amity which could only be appeased in destruction of the woman who had deprived her of the ambition in which she excelled. Almost as beautiful as the rival, she had been the victim of the graces of her person her triumphs were not so assured. To strike this powerful down and at the same time gratify the hate that burned in her heart, engaged every sleeping and waking

thought, to accomplish this, Mr. Adams had been arranged that they should have been planned, and to which our services were required, revealed to us other facts, not necessary to detail, but which convinced of the truth of the information he had received. Having done this, he retired, and left Mr. I.— and myself to consult.

Needless to say that the next night found us both at the opera. The beauty and fashion of the city has assembled to hear Bellini's grand opera, Norma, in which Mme. H.— appears as Norma, and Miss B.— represents the young priestess Adalgisa. Never have we seen the passionate sorrows of the heroine so fully depicted as in this. There was a wild terror in Norma's not least by genius—a fierce despair in themien of Adalgisa, not born of a wreck of her girlhood's hopes.

very condemnings had I an innocent
them, which appeared to the audience
if Norma had mingled with her sister
a more than mortal grief, which she
had robbed her of her lover's fidelity.
I saw it all and knew what it meant.
This impression was more deeply
firméd when Adalgisa rose from her
knees with a cry—meant as it was
despair, but which breathed an exulta-
tion—and fled from the presence of
her consoler. Her personation was
a more judicious one, and she was
right, not the analysis of an en-
raged despair. My heart felt a shiver
as I noted that wild look of ter-
ror woman, and marked the thrill of
passionate voice. Intuitively I felt
the hour in which she would seek to
punish her revenge was drawing
near. When the curtain fell, I
saw, as I have said, that the
door, from which the two men

In the carriage which Miss B——— pieled, I noticed a strange-looking individual disguised: but, as the lamp dashed on him, I saw a deerscar on the back of his left hand, and he was the proprietor of a fashionable restaurant, to which the artist at the opera usually retired for a supper. I saw the whole arrangement flashed on me like a gleam of lightning, and I determined not to lose one of the prima donna that evening, of what might. That they were going to the restaurant, I knew full well. There could be there, too, an invariable custom from which habits never varied. Driving rapid the place, therefore, we were comfortably seated in the ladies' ordinary, the prime donna came in. I saw at Miss B———'s eye a restlessness,

look—such a little thing!—which denoted mis-
trust to Madame H— she was minus
polite, I saw the stare of unforgive-
ness of that lady, when her rival
overwhelmed her with the unex-
pected compliments on her success. Ingen-
ious and unsuspecting, she accepted the
compliments, and what was to be
said, she winningly allowed.

Miss H— rang the bell, and the
prior entered himself with the vi-
sage of Miss B— was intense. His
hand trembled as she toyed with
the glass, and the pupils of her great
eyes contracted and expanded with
rapid and thoughtful emotions. The wine
poured into the glass, and, as Miss
H— was raising it to her lips, I ate
behind her chair and took it from
her hand. The lady looked surprised
and angry, and with a scream of

The government of Europe generally holds the tobacco business as a monopoly, and my own country is no exception. I mention under lately of the Italian tobacco loan, perhaps it would be interesting to many of them to understand particulars of the subject. The

ing will illustrate the mode by which certain capitalists in Italy and France propose to turn that Italian monopoly account.

The letters say that the French are convinced that, when the political union of the continent becomes a fact, the maritime and commercial development of Italy will, in all probability, be very considerable, every possibility of making investments in the ports of that country is really being examined, great and small, and, if, in the present moment, the situation financial world in Paris is such as to be approaching issue of a loan Italy is to raise on security of the tobacco supply, which in that country, France, with possession of the monopoly, would be for 180,000,000 francs or \$7,200,000, and a society of capitalists, the principal of whom are the

Stern, of Paris, London and Frankfurt, have undertaken to raise it. As soon as their advance, the Italian Government has turned over to them the tobacco monopoly for fifteen years, which period the Government will be situated to extend for the present year to produce £7,700,000 in the gross, and £6,000,000 net. It is easy to effect important savings in the management of the monopoly, and, of course, the more the Government can be made. The capitalists interested have formed a company, with a capital of £1,000,000, and have taken 50 shares of £100 each. All the shareholders are Italian, and intend to add to it, to insure the obligations of the nominal value, bearing interest at six per cent., or the sum necessary for the loan to working the monopoly. The price which the obligations will be issued at—£115—was £125, below the nominal value.

The Italian Government is to share the profits of the unexplored area to a certain amount, but the part in question will have no share will be entitled to pay for the interest on a redemption of the obligations. It is probable, our Paris letter says, that the advantages presented by this are considerable, and as the securities unquestionably safe, the subscription to the obligations will be presented of late years to the public seems to the French the safest and profitable.

✽An immense undertaking, the cost of which is estimated at about a hundred and fifty millions of francs, is under consideration in France, called the "Maritime Canal of the Seas," and is to extend from the

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